GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3365
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
OFF GRID POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote off-grid power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise;

(c) whether the Government plans to establish sustainable rural electrification through off-grid power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of rural electrification projects powered by off-grid sources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) to (d) : Scheme under Ministry of Power

Government has accorded approval for a capital subsidy of Rs.540 crore for Decentralised Distributed Generation (DDG) during XI Plan period under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). DDG can be from conventional or renewable sources such as Biomass, Biofuels, Biogas, Mini hydro, Solar etc. for villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.The DDG projects would be owned by State Government. Implementing Agencies of the projects shall be either the State Renewable Energy Development Agencies (SREDAs)/ Departments promoting renewable energy or State Utilities or the identified CPSUs. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been made the Nodal Agency for DDG scheme. Under the Scheme, 90% of the total project cost is provided to the implementing agency as subsidy. The balance 10% can be arranged by the implementing agency on their own or taken as loan from any financial institution or REC. So far, 283 projects covering 233 villages and 446 hamlets have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.280.56 crore under DDG scheme. A list of sanctioned DDG projects is at Annex-I.

Scheme under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

MNRE has a number of ongoing schemes/programmes to promote large scale deployment and use of off-grid/decentralized power generation systems based on locally available renewable energy sources. These include Solar Photovoltaic systems/plants, Micro-hydel plants, Biomass gasifiers, Waste-to-energy plants, Aero-generators/hybrid systems, etc. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) / Subsidies ranging from about 30 to 100% of the cost of deployment of the renewable power generation systems/plants is being provided under these schemes depending on the type of system, user category and region. Details of theseschemes/programmes along with the levels of CFA being provided are given in Annex-II.

The RVE programme of MNRE covers lighting/basic electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages where grid extensions was not found feasible by the State Governments and hence were not covered under the RGGVY. Such villages were provided basic facilities for lighting/electricity through various renewable energy sources. The programme was implemented in States by State notified implementing Agencies. The programme completed on 31.3.2012. During the 11th Plan period, 6033 nos. of villages and hamlets were sanctioned under the programme.

MNRE is promoting biomass gasifier systems using locally available agriculture residues such as rice husk, corn cob / stalk, cotton stalk, arhar stalk, small wood chips etc. So far, 60 gasifier systems of 32 kWe with 100% producer gas engines using rice husk and other agricultural residues have been set up for providing unmet demand of electricity through local distribution network in about 200 villages / hamlets / tolas in Bihar.

Under first phase of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) (1.4.2010-31.3.2013) a target of 200 MWp equivalent off-grid solar PV applications was fixed. The 2nd phase (1.4.2013 − 31.3.2017) envisages another 800 MWp equivalent of off-grid solar photovoltaic applications.

Major systems deployed in the country up to 31.03.2012 are as under:

Over 9160 villages / hamlets have been provided with renewable energy systems, mostly solar PV, for meeting the lighting/ basic electricity needs.

Over 19 lakh solar lighting systems and 7771 solar pumps with equivalent electricity generation capacity of~70.39 MW and stand-

alone SPV power plants of aggregate capacity of 19.82 MW.

Biomass /Cogeneration (non-bagasse) 382.50 MWeq.
Biomass Gasifiers
Rural electrification: 16.12 MWeq
Industrial application: 134.08 MWeq
Waste to Energy plants: 101.75 MWeq
Aero-Generators/Hybrid Systems: 1.64 MW
Micro-hydel sets (up to 100 kW): 3,425 kW
Watermills (1-5 kW, average 2 kW): 2,001 nos./ 3394 kW

State-wise details of cumulative off-grid power generation capacity set up through various off-grid power systems as on 31.3.2012 are given in Annex-lll.